

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-0871V

Filed: May 10, 2018

UNPUBLISHED

KATIE WIGGINS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

Leah VaSahnja Durant, Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC, Washington, DC, for petitioner.

Christine Mary Becer, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On June 26, 2017, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered the Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) caused in fact by the influenza vaccine she received on September 18, 2016. Petition at 1, ¶¶ 1, 14. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On March 29, 2018, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On May 10, 2018, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$200,000.00 for pain and suffering. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

agrees with the proffered award. Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$200,000.00 for pain and suffering in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Katie Wiggins.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey

Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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No. 17-871V

Chief Special Master Dorsey

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RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On March 27, 2018, respondent filed a Vaccine Rule 4(c) report concluding that petitioner suffered an injury that is compensable under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§300aa-10 to -34. Accordingly, on March 29, 2018, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement.

I. Items of Compensation

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$200,000.00 for pain and suffering which represents all compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).¹ Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of \$200,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

Petitioner agrees.

¹ Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.

Respectfully submitted,

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s/Christine Mary Becer
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Date: May 10, 2018